




MIRFIELD
URBAN
DISTRICT

ANNUAL
REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH
AND THE
SANITARY INSPECTOR

For the . . .
YEAR . . .
1943 . . .





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URBAN
DISTRICT

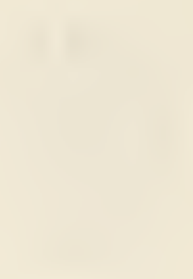


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ANNUAL REPORT, FOR 1943

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
MIRFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances for 1943.

The Birth Rate 14·58 was slightly higher than for the previous year (14·1) although less than the general figure for England and Wales (16·5). The Death Rate 14·22 showed an increase on that for 1942 (13·56). The Infantile Mortality Rate 24·8 compares favourably with 69·6 for the previous year and 49 for England and Wales in 1943.

Measles in the early part of the year and in Summer Catarrhal Jaundice and Enteritis were prevalent. During the last quarter of the year Influenza was widespread.

Diphtheria although notified on 23 occasions was confirmed in only 11 cases and no deaths were attributed to this disease. Scarlet Fever notifications (60) exhibit a reduction from 1942. Scabies assumed minor epidemic proportion, 221 cases being treated at Lower Hopton First Aid Post. I am indebted to the staff of the Post for their co-operation.

My acknowledgments are due to those who provided me with Returns which materially assisted in furnishing the Report.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN BATTERSBY.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health—

J. BATTERSBY. M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., (Glas.)

Sanitary Inspector—

H. H. JOHNSON, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Area (in Acres)	3,394
Population (Registrar-General's Estimate)	11,040
(Based on Ration Books issued)	11,035
Number of Inhabited Houses	4,000
Number of Families or Separate Occupiers...	4,400
Rateable Value	£54,843
Product of Penny Rate for Financial Year	
1942—1943	£206 5s. 3d.

Births—

BIRTHS	Male	BIRTHS	Female	Total
Total ...	80	Total ...	81	161
Legitimate	77	Legitimate ...	72	149
Illegitimate	3	Illegitimate ...	9	12

BIRTH RATE—14.58

STILL-BIRTHS—5 Male; 2 Female; Total, 7

Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population .634

Deaths—Males, 76; Females, 81; Total, 157

Death Rate, 14.22

Maternal Mortality—

I have pleasure in recording once again that there has been no Maternal death.

Infantile Mortality—

4 Infants under 1 year of age died during the year, 2 Male and 2 Female. Rate per 1,000 Live Births, 24.8

Deaths from Enteritis—Under 2 years of Age ... Nil.

For comparison with other districts, and with England and Wales, and also with 1941 and 1942 in Mirfield, a Summary is set out below :—

Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population (except where indicated).	England and Wales		148 Smaller Towns 25-50,000 *		Mirfield		
	1942	1943	1942	1943	1941	1942	1943
Live Births ...	15.8	16.5	18.4	19.4	9.69	14.0	14.58
Still Births ...	.54	.51	.62	.61	.69	.44	.63
Deaths(all Causes)	11.6	12.1	12.1	12.7	13.32	13.56	14.22
*Infantile							
Mortality ...	49	49	46	46	97	69.6	24.8
Deaths from							
Enteritis (under							
2 years old)	5.2	5.3	4.8	4.4	8.85	Nil	Nil

* Rate per 1,000 Live Births.

The causes of Death, and the number(s) under each head were as follows :—

Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	1	Intra Cranial Vascular	
Diphtheria ...	—	Lesions ...	25
Tuberculosis of Respiratory		Heart Disease ...	37
System ...	2	Other Circulatory Diseases	1
Other Tuberculous Disease	3	Bronchitis ...	14
Influenza ...	3	Pneumonia ...	6
Measles ...	2	Other Respiratory Diseases	1
Cancer (all Sites) ...	24	Premature Birth...	1
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum—		Suicide ...	1
Appendicitis ...	1	Violent Causes ...	4
Other Digestive Disturbances	7	All other Causes ...	20
Nephritis ..	2	War Traffic ...	1
Diabetes ...	1		
			157

A ii SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Industries in Mirfield continue to be engaged throughout the year and have absorbed all workers capable of ordinary industrial employment. There is no Unemployment Register. Particular attention is paid to welfare facilities in premises where women or juvenile workers are directed. Several Canteens have been opened and a Clinic, under the direction of a Medical Officer established at one factory.

B HEALTH PROVISIONS.

Scabies. Treatment of Scabies cases and contacts was undertaken at Lower Hopton First Aid Post. Medicaments were provided and the use of premises and services of staff authorised by W.R.C.C. Afternoon Sessions were held weekly from 2-30 p.m., on Thursdays,

Evening Sessions on the same day being conducted as required. Patients were referred by Medical Practitioners and Medical Officers of Clinics. Arrangements are established for the treatment of severe infections in hospital and disinfestation of bedding, etc., but in no case was this required. Recent instructions from the Ministry of Health favour simple measures in the home for disinfestation and these are detailed in notices served from the First Aid Post. Advice can be obtained from Sanitary Officers and Health Visitors—visits being arranged as required.

TREATMENT	...	...	221 cases
Adult Males	...		9
Females		...	45
Children	...		167

The result has been a notable reduction in the incidence of the disease locally. The decline was observed before the end of the year. The co-operation of the public and staff have contributed to the control of this disease. Most difficulty is encountered in eradicating the impression that some stigma is attached to the infestation; health propaganda successfully attacks such misconceptions.

C (1) WATER.

The district receives the bulk of its supply from Huddersfield Corporation. The supply is constant and direct to the houses.

The pressure in certain areas has not been satisfactory and preliminary enquiries and investigations are being carried out.

In addition to the above there are seven shallow wells, four springs and one private reservoir, supplying 57 houses. On this latter means of supply 51 houses are solely and 6 houses partly dependant. Following adverse reports received during 1942, one shallow well was found to be unsatisfactory and was closed, a piped supply being substituted.

Seven Samples (four Chemical, three Bacteriological), of water from several wells, springs, etc. in the area, were submitted to the County Laboratory for examination and were reported satisfactory.

(2) Drainage and Sewerage.

Except in isolated cases the district is well provided with sewers. No other extension has been made during the year.

(3) Rivers and Streams.

The river Calder runs through the district and is in a polluted state when it enters the district.

(iii) SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES —

See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

D HOUSING.

There was no major change to report on the Housing position during the year.

Overcrowding Particulars.

(a)	1	Number of Dwelling Houses Overcrowded at the end of the year	26
	2	Number of Families dwelling therein ...	26
	3	Number of Persons dwelling therein	129
(b)		Number of New Cases of Overcrowding reported during the year	5
(c)	1	Number of Cases of Overcrowding relieved during the year	1
	2	Number of Persons concerned in such cases ...	5

The Housing situation has now reached an acute stage due to the cessation of building. The whole question of overcrowding will have to be given attention in the future.

E INSPECTION SUPERVISION—Food.

See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

F PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Excluding Tuberculosis, there were 333 notifications in all; distributed as follows:—

	R.G.	Local		R.G.	Local
Diphtheria ...	23	23	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	—
Scarlet Fever ...	60	57	Pneumonia ...	5	1
Measles ...	233	226	Erysipelas ...	3	3
Whooping Cough	7	6	Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—
Dysentery ...	1	1	Acute Ant. Polio ...	1	1

Diphtheria.

Of 23 notifications only 11 cases were considered true Diphtheria, five of these occurring in immunised and 6 in unimmunised subjects. No deaths were reported. One carrier was isolated and ultimately proven free of infection. Diphtheria continues to be clinically severe and more prevalent among the unimmunised.

Scarlet Fever.

The disease remains mild in type; peak periods occurred in January and September although there were admissions to hospital throughout the year.

Measles.

Morbilli assumed biennial epidemic proportions from January and the epidemic curve was high until April. Of 226 notified cases only six were over 7 years of age. Two deaths from complications were registered.

Gastro Enteritis.

This infection was prevalent in summer. A few cases removed to Isolation Hospital were investigated bacteriologically without success—symptoms suggested an organism of dysenteric type. There were no fatal cases.

Influenza.

This virus infection was epidemic in the last quarter of 1943. Infectivity was high, virulence low. Of the three fatal cases two were complicated by previous illness of a fatal character and all were persons of advanced age.

IMMUNISATION.

The position is shown in the Return made to the Ministry of Health for December 31st, 1943.

	Under 5	5 to 15
(a) Estimated number of Children in Authority's Area at December 31st, 1943	727	1,550
(b) Estimated percentage considered Immunised	61·6	81·4

These figures include children immunised by arrangement through the County Council's Scheme which offers immunisation through private Doctor or Child Welfare Clinic. This Clinic is held at 10-45 a.m., on Fridays, at Ings Grove. The course given is one of two injections spaced at an interval of one month.

Diphtheria is a grave menace to the life and health of a child and it must clearly be realised that much higher percentage of immunisation in the pre-school child is required if the disease is to be eliminated.

Tuberculosis.

Five fresh cases were notified 2 Pulmonary (2 Females); and three Non-Pulmonary (1 Male, 2 Female). At the end of the year the figures representing the position in Mirfield were;—

		Males		Females	Total
Pulmonary Tuberculosis		...	12	10	22
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis		...	4	10	14
NEW CASES		PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY	
		M	F	M	F
Under 1	...	—	—	—	—
1- 5	...	—	—	—	—
5-10	...	—	—	—	—
10-15	...	—	—	—	—
15-20	...	—	1	—	1
20-25	...	—	1	—	—
25-35	...	—	—	—	—
35-45	...	—	—	1	1
45-55	...	—	—	—	—
55-65	...	—	—	—	—
65 and Over	...	—	—	—	—
		—	2	1	2

Bacteriological Specimens examined during 1943.

Bloods for Cytological Exam. ...	6
Sputa for Tubercle Bacilli ...	7
Bloods for Widal Reaction ...	3
Swabs for C. Diphtheriæ ...	116
Urines and Fæces for B. Typhosus ...	1
Urines for Tubercle Bacilli and Orgs.	6
Milks for Tubercle Bacilli ...	5
Milks for Methylene Blue Test	14
Waters for Bacteriological Exam. ...	2
Bio-Chemical Examinations ...	9
Miscellaneous Specimens ...	7
Swabs for Hæmolytic Streptococci	15
Urines for Friedman Test ...	4
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TOTAL ...	195



ANNUAL REPORT
FROM THE
Sanitary Inspector's
AND
Cleansing Superintendent's
DEPARTMENT.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present for your consideration my third Annual Report of the Sanitary Conditions appertaining to your district for the year ending 1943.

That part relating to the Cleansing Department extends to the end of the financial year, that is the 31st March, 1944.

In conclusion my thanks are due to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their support and interest in all matters relating to the work of the department, and also to all Officials of the Council for their valuable assistance and co-operation, which has been greatly appreciated.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

H. H. JOHNSON.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

(4) Sanitary Convenience.

Closet Accommodation, December 31st, 1943.

Number of Privies	277
„ Privies Ashpits	165
„ Dry Ashpits	23
„ Dust Bins	3605
„ Water Closets	3850
„ Waste Water Closets	53
„ Pail or Tub Closets	33
„ Privies Discontinued	5

Number of Water Closets provided during year is as follows :-

By conversion of Privies to Water Closets	Nil
By provision of Extra Closet Accommodation to existing property where insufficient	1
By provision to New Property	4
By conversion of Waste Water Closets to W.C.'s	Nil
By conversion of Tub Closets to W.C.'s	Nil
TOTAL	5

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

Total Number of Inspections	1284
Complaints Investigated	55
Cowsheds, Dairies and Milkshops	99
Canal Boats	3
Dwellinghouses - Housing Act	—
Public Health Act	253
Infectious Diseases	195
Drains Inspected and Approved	30
Factories and Workshops	25
Schools	23
Slaughterhouses, Markets and Shops	35
Bakehouses	26
Premises where Nuisances were found	53
Entertainment Houses	—
Refuse Tips	10
Miscellaneous Visits	417

NOTICES SERVED.

Legal Notices Issued	3
Letters or Informal Notices... ..	53
Owners seen Personally	23
Number of Nuisances found in 1943	53
Number of Nuisances in hand from 1942	21
Total Requiring Abatement... ..	74
Total Number Abated	58
In hand end of 1943	16

SUMMARY OF SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED.

Houses

Houses made Fit	...	...	...	42
Cleansed or Limed	...	...	...	2
Vermin Infested	...	...	...	4
Overcrowding Abated	...	...	...	1
Damp Proof Course Provided	...	...	...	1
Washing Accommodation Improved	...	...	...	1
Roofs Repaired	...	...	...	6
Eaves Spouting, Rain Water Fall Pipe Repaired	...	...	...	7
Rain Water Fall Pipe Disconnected	...	...	...	1
External Walls Repaired	...	...	...	3
Internal Walls Repaired	...	...	...	19
Floors Repaired	...	...	...	1
Doors Repaired	...	...	...	4
Fire-Place Repaired	...	...	...	6
Wells Abolished	...	...	...	1
Yards Paved	...	...	...	1
Yards Cleansed	...	...	...	7
Dangerous Structure Removed	...	...	...	1
Coal Stores Improved	...	...	...	4

Drains

Opened for Inspection	...	...	...	1
Repaired	...	...	...	4
Reconstructed	...	...	...	5
Cleansed by Owner	...	...	...	7
Ventilated	...	...	...	6
Disconnected	1

Accumulations

Manure	3
Other	6

Animals, Poultry, Etc.

Nuisance Abated	6
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Ash-Bins and Ash-Places

Bins Renewed	74
Ash-Places Repaired	1

Closets

Privies Repaired	3
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Sinks

New Provided	10
Waste Pipe Trapped	5
Waste Pipe Repaired	2

Piggeries

Swine Removed	6
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Water Closets

Cleansed or Limed	4
Repaired	1
Additional W.C.'s Provided	4

SHOPS ACT, 1934

Regular visits have been made under the Shops Act, 1934, during the year. No contraventions of the Act have been found.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

No observations were taken during the year.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

Number of Council Houses found to be Infested	1
Number Disinfested	1
Other Houses found to be Infested ...	3
Number Disinfested	3

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS & REGULATIONS

All Premises and Occupations within the District which can be controlled by Bye-Laws are already so controlled. There are no Lodging-Houses or Underground sleeping rooms, and only occasionally do we have Van Dwelling in the district.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

Advantage was taken of the "zoning" of Milk Purveyors under the auspices of the Ministry of Food, to make a comprehensive survey of the Milk Purveyors in the district.

Producer Retailers in the District	21
Producers from Outside, Retailing in the District	9
Dairymen in District	2
Dairymen from Outside District	2
Retail Purveyors in the District	34
Cowkeepers in the District	24
Milk Purveyors added to Register during year ...	6
Milk Purveyors who have discontinued during year	9

The Cowsheds and Dairies have been regularly inspected throughout the year, and in addition the cows have been subject to an inspection by the Veterinary Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. With the exception of minor defects the several Cowsheds and Dairies have been carried on in a satisfactory manner.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK

During the year 11 samples of Ordinary Milk and 14 samples of Designated Milks together with 6 samples of School Milks, were submitted to the County Health Department for Bacteriological Examination. The results are as follows:—

TOTAL	GRADE	INSIDE DISTRICT		OUTSIDE DISTRICT	
		Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory
11	Ordinary ...	8	2	1	—
2	Tuberculin Tested	2	—	—	—
12	Accredited ...	10	1	1	—
6	School Milks ...	1	5	—	—

The results of samples submitted for Bacteriological Examination show that of the 25 samples of Milk from Retailers, 22 or 88% were reported to be satisfactory.

The 6 samples of School Milk were all taken from one source. The farm was kept under observation and the farmer advised as to cleanliness of production. Recent samples have since proved satisfactory.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDERS 1936-1938

Number of Licences in operation during 1943 ... 8
Licences Issued by W.R.C.C.—

Accredited Milk ... 6
Tuberculin Tested ... 1

Licenses Issued by the Council:—

1 Licence (Supplementary) to Retail Pasteurised Milk

FOOD AND DRUG ACTS, 1938

By arrangement with the West Riding County Council, 21 samples of Milk were submitted for analysis under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, during the year. It is gratifying to report that one sample only was reported upon adversely by the Analyst, the remaining 20 samples were reported satisfactory.

In addition the officers of the West Riding County Council submitted 37 Milk Samples for analysis (one of which was reported to be adulterated) and 15 samples of other foodstuffs (1 of which was reported to be unsatisfactory).

These figures of samples of foodstuffs which have been taken during the year by the inspectors are most encouraging and indicate the care and attention which is being given to the work in this area.

REGISTRATION OF FOOD PREMISES

(a) Register of Ice Premises.

Three Premises are Registered for the Sale of Ice Cream

(b) Register of Food (Preparation & Manufacture) Premises

Ten premises are registered for the Preparation or Manufacture of Food Products.

Thirteen are registered for the Preservation of Fish Cooking.

These premises have been regularly inspected during the year, and apart from minor defects, there has been no serious contravention of the Act during the year.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES

The number of Licenced Slaughterhouses in the District is 7.

Slaughtering for this District is carried out at the Spenborough Abattoir under the control of the Ministry of Food.

CONDEMNATION OF UNSOUND FOOD

The following items were surrendered and condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year:—

Luncheon Meat	...	...	20 lbs
Grape Jam	...	...	12 „
Grape Jelly	...	...	26 „
Purple Prune Plums	...	...	4 „
Corned Beef	...	...	6 „
Pilchards	...	...	31 „
Pork Sausage Meat	...	...	3 „
Beef	...	...	159 „
Bacon	...	...	28 „
Lard	...	...	6 „
Ham	...	...	36 „
Sultanas	...	...	13 „
Mussels	...	...	38 „
Rusks	...	...	10 Stones
Cabbage	...	...	61 Packages
Fish Cakes	...	...	4 doz.
Eggs in Shell	...	...	32
Peas	...	...	2 Tins
Grade 3 Salmon	...	...	4 Tins
Condensed Sweetened Milk...			1 Tin

SCAVENGING, 1942-1943

The Staff engaged on this work consists of 2 drivers, 7 dustmen, and 1 tipman, under the supervision of the foreman.

During the year the engines of the 2 refuse collecting wagons were reconditioned and the vehicles are now giving satisfaction.

Details of the work carried out by the Department during the year are set out below:—

Waggon No.	Loads to Tip	Bins	Privies	Ashpits	Pail Closets	Trade Refuse
1	814	40,915	1,136	1,072	2,032	32
2	897	47,076	1,268	909	112	80
TOTAL	1,711	87,991	2,404	1,981	2,144	112

All refuse was disposed of by controlled tipping on the Taylor Hall Lane Tip, comprised of approximately, 1,711 loads.

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF REFUSE

Expenditure—

	£	s	d
Wages	1,885	0	0
Oil	2	10	0
Repairs	195	0	0
Sundries	24	0	0
National Health Insurance ...	60	0	0
Petrol	180	0	0
Licenses	70	0	0
Insurance	12	19	2
Rates	9	17	0
TOTAL ...	£2,439	6	2

Income—

	£	s	d
Sundry Rents	20		
Trade Refuse	25		
Sundry Charges	5		
TOTAL ...	50	0	0
NET COST ...	£2,389	6	2

SALVAGE, 1943-1944

The results of the Salvage effort during the year are set out below :—

The decrease in the Salvage figures are largely due to a decrease in the amount of waste paper which was salvaged during the year. This was to be expected as the shortage of new paper took effect and the accumulations of old waste paper had largely been offered for salvage during the previous salvage years.

The one special effort during the year was the Book Recovery Drive. Mirfield more than played its part in this National effort. The target figure was 25,000 books and we actually received 36,700 books.

I again welcome this opportunity of expressing my appreciation for the assistance which has been given by many voluntary helpers throughout the district, and appeal to everyone to continue this vital work with increased determination and enthusiasm throughout the next 12 months.

SALVAGE RETURNS

1942—1943						1943—1944					
TONNAGE			INCOME			TONNAGE			INCOME		
T	C	Q	£	s	d	T	C	Q	£	s	d
227	16	0	1023	15	5	210	11	1	850	2	4

INCOME FROM SALE OF SALVAGED MATERIAL

	T.	C.	Qrs.	Lbs.	£	s.	d.
Paper	104	4	3	0	669	15	4
Tins	24	0	0	0	29	6	8
Rubber	1	8	0	0	3	10	0
Scrap Metal ...	2	16	2	0	7	19	7
Cullet, Bottles, etc.	1	4	2	0	4	9	11
Rags		16	3	0	14	18	10
Bones	3	1	0	0	14	11	6
Other Metals ...		5	3	0	6	9	4
Kitchen Waste	65	4	2	0	97	16	10
String		3	2	9	1	4	4
					<hr/>		
					£850	2	4
					<hr/>		

